

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 INSE-00 CIAE-00  
INR-10 NSAE-00 CA-01 SS-15 NSC-05 /074 W  
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R 110545Z JUL 78  
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1423  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION GENEVA  
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 8844

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: CVIS, PDIP, SREF, CA, VM  
SUBJECT: VIETNAMESE/CANADIAN DISCUSSIONS ON IMMIGRATION PROCEDURES  
CONCLUDED

REF: HONG KONG 7998

1. SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO INFORMED SOURCES, THE CANADIAN  
AMBASSADOR TO HANOI ACCOMPANIED BY A CANADIAN NATIONAL HEALTH  
DOCTOR VISITED SAIGON IN JUNE/JULY AND COMPLETED ARRANGE-  
MENTS FOR PROCESSING IMMIGRANTS TO CANADA. THE CHO RAY  
HOSPITAL IN SAIGON WAS APPROVED FOR IMMIGRANT MEDICAL EXAMINA-  
TIONS AND TWO PHYSICIANS ON ITS STAFF WERE DESIGNATED AS  
MEDICAL REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE CANADIANS. THE CANADIAN  
AUTHORITIES NOW PLAN TO SUBMIT A SHORT LIST OF IMMIGRANT  
CASES TO THE VIETNAMESE TO TEST THE PROCEDURES. PRECEDENTS  
ESTABLISHED WITH THE CANADIAN PROGRAM WILL INFLUENCE VIETNAMESE  
POLICY WHEN US/SRV NEGOTIATIONS TAKE PLACE ON THE SAME ISSUES.  
END SUMMARY

2. FOLLOWING THE PARTIALLY SUCCESSFUL TRIP OF THE  
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CANADIAN IMMIGRATION TEAM TO HANOI IN MAY (REFTEL) THE  
CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO HANOI (AND TO THE PRC) ARTHUR  
MENZIES REPORTEDLY SUGGESTED TO THE VIETNAMESE THAT THE  
CANADIANS BE PERMITTED TO INSPECT THE VIETNAMESE MEDICAL  
FACILITY PROPOSED FOR POTENTIAL IMMIGRANTS IN THE SOUTH  
AT THE SAME TIME AS THE ARRIVAL AT DANAG OF A GIFT SHIP-  
MENT OF CANADIAN FLOUR. THE VIETNAMESE AGREED AND A

CANADIAN NATIONAL HEALTH DOCTOR FLEW FROM BANGKOK TO SAIGON ON JUNE 29 TO MEET THE AMBASSADOR AND TO VISIT THE CHO RAY HOSPITAL.

3. ACCOMPANIED BY SRV PUBLIC HEALTH REPRESENTATIVE, DR. LOC, THE CANADIAN MEDICAL OFFICER INSPECTED THE FACILITIES OF CHO RAY AND DESIGNATED TWO PHYSICIANS AS CANADIAN MEDICAL REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE EXAMINATION OF IMMIGRANTS: DR. TRINH KIM ANH, CHO RAY HOSPITAL DIRECTOR AND DR. LE DOAN HUNG, VICE DIRECTOR. DURING THE INSPECTION THE VIETNAMESE NOTED THAT THEY WERE IN SHORT SUPPLY OF LARGE X-RAY FILMS REQUIRED FOR THE CANADIAN EXAMINATIONS. THE NATIONAL HEALTH OFFICER REPORTEDLY PROMISED TO SHIP THE NECESSARY FILM AND THEN IN A GENEROUS SPIRIT ADDED THAT AN EXTRA SUPPLY FOR THE HOSPITAL MIGHT ALSO BE SENT. THE VIETNAMESE GRACIOUSLY REPLIED THAT THERE WERE THINGS NEEDED MORE URGENTLY THAN X-RAY FILM AND THAT A LIST WOULD BE SENT TO THE CANADIANS.

4. WITH MEDICAL ARRANGEMENTS NOW COMPLETED IN BOTH HANOI AND SAIGON, THE CANADIANS ARE PREPARED TO INITIATE THEIR PROGRAM. FOR THE PRESENT, THE PROGRAM WILL BE CONCERNED ONLY WITH FAMILY REUNIFICATION AND ONLY IMMEDIATE RELATIVES OF PERSONS IN CANADA WILL BE ELIGIBLE. THE CANADIANS WILL PRESENT LISTS OF VIETNAMESE SPONSORED

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BY RELATIVES IN CANADA. THE VIETNAMESE AUTHORITIES WILL ISSUE CERTIFICATES CONFIRMING RELATIONSHIPS. THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH A CERTIFICATE WILL SIGNAL SRV AGREEMENT TO PERMIT THE VIETNAMESE IMMIGRANT TO DEPART. A CANADIAN IMMIGRATION OFFICER WILL VISIT VIETNAM AND INTERVIEW EACH APPLICANT. IF THE APPLICATION IS IN ORDER, HE WILL INSTRUCT THE APPLICANT TO TAKE A PHYSICAL EXAMINATION AT ONE OF THE APPROVED HOSPITALS. MEDICALS WILL BE SENT TO HONG KONG AND IF FOUND IN ORDER, A CANADIAN VISA WILL BE MAILED TO THE APPLICANT. SRV PASSPORTS WILL BE ISSUED.

5. DURING THE COURSE OF THE CANADIAN/VIETNAMESE DISCUSSIONS, THE VIETNAMESE ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD ALSO LIKE TO PRESENT LISTS OF PROPOSED VIETNAMESE IMMIGRANTS TO THE CANADIANS AND, IN FACT, PRESENTED A LIST OF SIX FAMILIES TO THE CANADIAN AMBASSADOR AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE JULY DISCUSSIONS. ALTHOUGH THIS WAS NOT THE AGREED PROCEDURE AS UNDERSTOOD BY THE CANADIANS, IMMIGRATION OFFICIALS IN THE CANADIAN COMMISSION IN HONG KONG BELIEVE THAT THESE CASES WILL BE CONSIDERED IF THE PROPOSED IMMIGRANTS ARE

FOUND TO HAVE PROPER CANADIAN SPONSORS.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE CANADIANS BELIEVE THEY HAVE AN "UNDERSTANDING" WITH THE VIETNAMESE ON HOW THE PROCESS OF VIETNAMESE IMMIGRATION TO CANADA IS SUPPOSED TO WORK, WE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOTHING IN WRITING AND THERE IS ALREADY SOME AMBIGUITY OVER WHICH GOVERNMENT PRESENTS THE NAMES OF THE PROPOSED IMMIGRANTS. IN VIEW OF THE POOR VIETNAMESE BUREAUCRATIC TRACK RECORD AND THEIR PENCHANT FOR TYING ANY FORM OF COOPERATION WITH AID, WE EXPECT THE CANADIANS WILL HAVE MORE PROBLEMS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THEIR PROGRAM THAN THEY HAD IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PROCEDURES. IN THEORY, THE AGREED SYSTEM SHOULD WORK AND COULD PROVIDE A USEFUL  
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BASIS FOR DEVELOPING A SYSTEM FOR PROCESSING VIETNAMESE IMMIGRANTS GOING TO THE US.  
SHOESMITH

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## Message Attributes

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